Wallace Man Defeated in Tennessee

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MEMPHIS, March 25—A candidate backed by former Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, the American Independent party leader, was defeated Tuesday in a special Congressional election in Tennessee's Eighth District despite Mr. Wallace's personal appeal. The seat was one held by the legendary Tennessee Representative Davey Crockett.

Ed Jones, a Democrat who was formerly the Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner, won the election by a wide margin after a quiet campaign.

The American party candidate, William J. Davis of Covington, barely beat Leonard Dunavant, a Republican of Millington, for second place.

With unofficial returns from 360 precincts of 364 counted, the vote was:

Jones 32,666
Davis 16,319
Dunavant 15,604

Making Mr. Davis's defeat even more significant was that it came in a district where Mr. Wallace was the leading vote getter in last fall's Presidential election. It was the first time since his own unsuccessful try for the Presidency that Mr. Wallace had ventured into national politics.

In addition to the candidates of the three political parties, there were seven independent candidates in the race to succeed Representative Robert A. Everett, who died shortly after Congress convened.

Although Mr. Jones, a widely known farm figure in Tennessee, was favored to win, the election was watched with unusual interest because Mr. Wallace had apparently chosen the election to test his own political wind.

He came to Tennessee to campaign in the Congressional district with Mr. Davis and make television commercials for him.

Mr. Jones, a 56-year-old agricultural agent for the Illinois Central Railroad after his term as Agriculture Commissioner expired, was well known throughout the largely rural district.

Mr. Davis, a 48-year-old insurance agent, spent much of his campaign attacking former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and "the Washington crowd."

The Republican party, apparently sensing a chance to pick up a fifth Congressional seat in Tennessee, had sent help to Mr. Dunavant, a 49-year-old furniture dealer. Stumping the district for him were the House minority leader, Gerald Ford of Michigan, Representative Rogers C. B. Morton of Maryland, chairman-elect of the Republican National Committee, and Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. and Representatives Dan H. Kuykendall and William E. Brock of Tennessee.